

REPORT

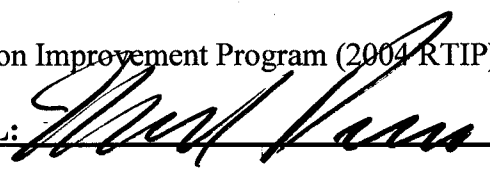
DATE: September 4, 2003

TO: Transportation and Communications Committee

FROM: Rosemary Ayala, Lead Regional Planner
(213/236-1927; FAX 213/236-1963; ayala@scag.ca.gov)

SUBJECT: 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (2004 RTIP) Guidelines

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the release of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines and the approval process for RTIP amendments, and authorize staff to finalize the guidelines.

Background:

The 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines have been prepared in concert with the transportation commissions and the Imperial Valley Association of Governments (IVAG) to facilitate the work of the commissions and IVAG, Caltrans, and transit operators in the development of the RTIP project listing and in the submittal of the county TIPs to SCAG. The main intent is to ensure the project listing fulfills the legal, administrative, and technical aspects of the RTIP process, and to minimize duplicate efforts by the various agencies involved in the process.

Summary:

SCAG is required under both federal and state laws to develop a Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The RTIP is the short-range program that implements the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to accomplish improvements in mobility and air quality. SCAG develops the RTIP in cooperation with the State (Caltrans), the county transportation commissions and IVAG, and public transit operators. Federal law requires that the RTIP be updated at least every two years, adopted by SCAG, and sent to the Governor for approval. The RTIP Guidelines are updated at least every two years by SCAG staff working with the staff from the transportation commissions to ensure that all current legal, administrative, and technical requirements are met.

In addition, these Guidelines assume continuation of all major federal programs currently found in TEA-21(scheduled to expire September 30, 2003) in the 2004 RTIP period which begins July 2004. The Guidelines will be modified if programs are modified, added and/or deleted in the next federal transportation act.

Fiscal Impact

The staff resources necessary for developing the 2004 RTIP, including the 2004 RTIP Guidelines, are contained within the Fiscal Year 2003/04 SCAG budget.

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